

The Christ Church History and Archives committee has been formed to collect, document and preserve the material and social history of the Parish and to encourage participation and involvement of all parishioners.

Christ Church and its Fairs

The annual summer church fair, or fete, is one of the less stolid traditions of the Church of England.

It celebrates agriculture, and community activities.

At Christ Church, the Spring Fairs were held on a Saturday in early June and happened in 1969, 1971, 1973, 1977, 1982, 1984 and 1999.

The first fair took place after the service, in the city park. Later it was an all-day event, located mainly on the church lawn, with crafts and art in the church building. The fairs brought together parishioners and friends from the Community for a day of fun and a chance for all ages to enjoy themselves in the name of a good cause.

The event was extraordinarily well planned, under the overall command of a Chairman. The chair for '71 was Kay Grove, '73 Pat Pryde, '77 Marg and Gary Johnson, '82 Mary and Bill Selby and '84 Billie and Fred Scott. There were committees for food, art, games, entertainment, publicity and of course finance. Further subcommittees dealt with decorating, construction, electrical needs, clean up, and tents and tables. Organizing the fair was challenging, but in 1971 it had to be moved indoors at the last minute because of the weather.

The site was generously decorated with flowers, balloons, flags and bunting, picket fences and a water fountain from Whitburn's Florists. A lady mingled with the crowd, selling bouquets. The bells were rung periodically. Food stands served hot dogs, root beer, lemonade, candy, popcorn, and ice cream. People could sit at tables in front of an entertainment stage, which featured various performances. For at least one Fair, the choir organized a sit-down dinner, and provided the entertainment.

There was 'Peddler's lane', selling treasures and 'near antiques.' Arts and crafts were sold in the Crump Room, with an auction for items of value. One tent sold literary masterpieces, audio treasures and games. There was a 'Gourmet Bake Sale' and a 'Sale of Plants.' Other events included pony rides, a fire engine ride and tours of the belfry.

Young people also enjoyed a petting zoo and a fortune teller. Then there were games, like fish pond, darts, a double-your-doubloons game, a sponge-throw, jelly-bean count, shuffleboard, horse shoes, milk bottles toss, a guess-the-beans game, and a car wrecking game.

At the 2000 Annual General Meeting, Henry Beaumont requested that the Church fair be reinstated for June 2001, but the idea didn't catch on. Perhaps many felt that it was best to stop and enjoy the happy memories.

Parishioners are invited to contact John Mendham (jhmendham@telus.net) or other committee members, if they would like a copy of a longer historical article on this subject, or if they have oral or tangible records they would like to donate.

Over/....



Mawney Somerville.

Mawney was the youngest of Jennifer Somerville's six children. A very supportive parishioner, Jennifer was Rector's Warden in 2001 and People's Warden in 2006. She was also on the Design Committee for Renewing the Welcome 1999-2008, and on Vestry 2008/9.

Henry Beaumont QC.

Henry and his wife Gail, who passed in 2005, have been members of the Parish since 1957. Henry has been on Vestry and a bell ringer. A volunteer and staunch supporter of the fairs, he also organized patronal festivals and other social events. A great lover of jazz, still plays on play the Crump Room piano.



History article #5. Published June 2019.

RECTORS:

Horne	1913 – 1929	Tatchell	1966 – 1980	Tucker	2005 – 2015
Luxton	1930 – 1933	Curtis	1980 – 1983	Belcher	2015 – 2016
Kemp	1933 – 1944	O'Driscoll	1984 – 1992	Pickett	2016 – Present
Crump	1944 – 1960	Boyles	1992 – 1993		
Dowker	1960 – 1966	Pike	1993 – 2003		